Math, Who Needs it Anyway?!

Introduction: It is all too often that students in math classes ask, “Why do I need to know this math concept?” Jaime Escalante, the famous math teacher who inspired the movie “Stand and Deliver” used real life perspectives to teach math to his students. Did you know that every career imaginable uses math in some way to be successful? That’s right - from accounting to home making and medicine to fashion, math skills are needed every day.  
  
Task:

Develop a wiki to share with other math students, proving that math is needed for all kinds of careers. After doing research on one career, your job is to tell how the career uses math. Share examples of the math computations that are necessary to do the job.   
  
Your completed wiki page will then be able to be viewed by future students and thus end the age old question of, “Math, who needs it anyway?”

## The Process:

* 1. Choose a career you would like to pursue.
  2. Describe the career and its use of math.
  3. Demonstrate how math is used in this career through two examples of mathematical computations that are necessary to do the job.
  4. Identify the starting salary for this profession.

    5.   You may choose any web 2.0 tool to present this career, including your excel chart of everyday expenses.  
Research:

1. Title of career
2. Description of career and educational requirements
3. Mathematical examples and explanations of the cluster's use in that career.
4. List the starting salary for this profession.
5. Pictures or graphs that enhance your explanations.
6. Choose the career that you would be most like to pursue. Create an excel chart identifying your everyday expenses for a month: rent, utilities (gas, electric, cable, phone), car payment, cell phone costs, food, savings, student loan payment, miscellaneous expenses (going to the movies, clothing, travel).....
7. Summary: Must include details if you can support yourself on this salary. Identify how much more salary is needed for your lifestyle.

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| RESOURCES   * The Futures Channel: Jaime Escalante: <http://www.thefutureschannel.com/jaime_escalante.php>Find more about Jaime Escalantes and all he did for his students. * The Futures Channel: Jaime Escalante on being a teacher: <http://www.thefutureschannel.com/dockets/jaime_escalante/jaime_on_being_a_teacher/index.php>See a video of Jaime talking about being a teacher and the importance of teaching math as real-life skills. * Mathematics-Related Professions: <http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~kouba/MathJobs.html>Search through a list of careers that all involve mathematics. * Careers in Math:<http://www.math.com/students/advice/careers.html>math.com’s advice for careers in math. * Career Profiles: <http://www.maa.org/careers/index.html>see a wide variety of jobs that need mathematic skills. * Starting Salaries: <http://www.collegecrunch.org/money/52-career-starting-salaries/> * or <http://www.campusgrotto.com/average-starting-salary-by-degree-for-2009.html> * or <http://www.collegegrad.com/careers/index.shtml>   PBL Unit Documents [http://www.wikispaces.com/i/mime/32/application/msword.png](http://petruccigrade6math.wikispaces.com/file/view/math_who_needs_it_anyway.doc) [math\_who\_needs\_it\_anyway.doc](http://petruccigrade6math.wikispaces.com/file/view/math_who_needs_it_anyway.doc) [http://www.wikispaces.com/i/mime/32/application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document.png](http://petruccigrade6math.wikispaces.com/file/view/Math+Career+Budget+Project.docx) [Math Career Budget Project.docx](http://petruccigrade6math.wikispaces.com/file/view/Math+Career+Budget+Project.docx) |